



Permission to Publish Online



Throughout the 2011-2012 school year, our class will be using technology and the Internet to enhance learning and prepare students for future challenges. Many of these technologies require students to publish student work to the Internet. These include the use of blogs, podcasts, and digital projects.

Blogs

A Weblog, or blog as they are commonly called, is a special type of Web page that can be created and easily updated using a Web browser. Each new entry has its own date stamp. Each entry has a comments section where visitors to the blog may leave comments for the author. For example, students in our class will respond to prompts and discuss quality literature within our class blog.

Having a real audience is one of the key components to this program. In addition to receiving comments from their classmates, our class will receive comments from other classes who are invited to visit our web pages. We anticipate arranging for students in other parts of the state and possibly country to visit our blogs and comment on our writing. Parents are also invited to visit the blogs and respond to the writing.

Podcasts

A podcast is a digital audio and/or video recording published on the Internet and available for downloading. For example, select student presentations will be published to the class website via podcasts such as our project detailing the main events of the Texas Revolution.

Digital Projects

A digital project is a student project that can be stored electronically and published to the Internet. There are several student projects planned that will require work to be posted to the Internet.

Security

Our use of the aforementioned technologies has been designed to minimize risk to your child. All student blogs, podcasts, and digital projects will be placed on password protected pages. These pages will remain hidden from public view. In order to access the restricted pages, the user must be invited and issued a username and password. Even with these restrictions, students will be required to refrain from sharing personally identifying information such as last name, address, phone number, age, etc.

Permission

Before your child may start blogging, podcasting, or posting digital projects, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign the attached form. Please return the form to Mrs. Witherspoon as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Witherspoon at ann_witherspoon@midlothian-isd.net.

Regards,

Mrs. Witherspoon

Blogging Terms and Conditions/Podcast & Photo Consent

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree to not post or give out your family name, password, user name, email address, home address, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact you in person. You may share your interests, ideas and preferences.
2. Students agree to never log in as another student.
3. Students using blogs are expected to treat blogspaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is not appropriate for your blog. While we encourage you to engage in debate and conversation with other bloggers, we also expect that you will conduct yourself in a manner reflective of a representative of this school.
4. Blogs are to be a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such will be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers.
5. Blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing student writing with real audiences. Most visitors to your blog who leave comments will leave respectful, helpful messages. If you receive a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, tell your teacher right away. Do not respond to the comment.
6. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in the blogging activities.

I have read and understood these blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.

I also give permission for digital images and recordings of me to be published to the Internet.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____